

MINUTES
MANSFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Special Meeting
Wednesday, October 1, 2014
Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: Beebe, Fecho, Ferrigno, Kazerounian, McGuire, Thompson
Staff Present: Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. by Ferrigno.

Public Comment

- No public comment received.

Approval of Minutes

Thompson MOVED, McGuire seconded approval of the June 26, 2014 minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. **Developing an EDC Work Plan.**

- *Business Visitation Program.* McGuire updated members on progress to-date, including 7 interviews completed and a goal of completing 30 by year end. McGuire and Hirschorn will be adjusting the survey after 10 interviews are completed and then splitting into two teams with the addition of Ferrigno and Councilman Marcellino to complete additional interviews. First interviews have generated interesting information (4 of 7 businesses do better in summer when UConn isn't in full session), ideas (brochures/visitors center; map of businesses with advertising) and need to recognize local businesses for awards received.
- *Regional EDC Forum.* Painter reminded the Commission that Mansfield had volunteered to host the next regional meeting and that October was 6 months from the first hosted by Coventry. Painter will work with Hart on identifying a date and venue for a November event. Topic ideas included a tour of Storrs Center and presentations from the SBDC and MetroHartford Alliance. Ferrigno requested that Andover be invited to the meeting.
- *Updates from Other Commission Members.* There were no other updates.

2. **Four Corners Sewer and Water Project.** Painter advised the Commission that the Council voted to send the sewer project to referendum. Beebe noted that he thought North Hillside Road would be a more cost effective route for the sewer line.
3. **EDC Membership.** Painter noted that Hart is continuing to work on how to integrate interested Town Council members into the EDC. One alternative is inclusion on special subcommittees created by the Commission.

New Business

4. **NextGenCT impact study.** Painter updated the Commission on the NextGenCT impact study; a preferred firm has been identified and Hart is in the process of checking references and negotiating a contract. Kazerounian offered to provide the Commission with a summary of the recent report on UConn's economic impact on the state. He also suggested that the Town should work with UConn to allow the Dining Services meal plan to be used in local restaurants, an approach that could benefit local businesses and reduce the need to build and operate new dining halls on campus.
5. **Next Meeting/Agenda Items.** The next meeting is scheduled for October 23rd and will include an update on scheduling of a regional EDC meeting.

Reports

- **Business Activity.** Painter updated the Commission on recent business activity including the opening of CVS Pharmacy at Storrs Center, two new businesses that will be locating in the corner building on the Price Chopper site, and a new pharmaceutical company moving to Four Corners.
- **Events.** Painter updated the members on the recent Celebrate Mansfield Festival, monthly square fairs, and distributed programs for the Windham Chamber's Regional Economic Development Summit scheduled for October 2, 2014.

Ferrigno adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda M. Painter, AICP
Director of Planning and Development